

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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DAVID EQUIHUA,

Plaintiff,

v.

KILILO KIJAKAZI, Acting Commissioner of
Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:21-cv-01912-EJY

ORDER

This case involves judicial review of administrative action by the Commissioner of Social Security, denying Plaintiff's claim for Social Security benefits. The Court recognizes that many of these cases have a number of factors in common:

1. Such cases rarely, if ever, require proceedings in the nature of a trial. Instead, these cases are usually resolved by cross-motions to reverse or remand and to affirm the Commissioner's decision.

2. Sometimes Plaintiff submits new medical reports to the court in support of a request for remand at such a late date in the proceedings as to cause an unnecessary and undesirable delay in the rendering of a decision by the court.

3. The transcript of the evidence adduced at the administrative hearing frequently contains the words "inaudible" or "unintelligible" in some places, and the administrative record sometimes contains documents which are illegible. These parts of the administrative record may or may not relate to the question of whether the Commissioner's decision is supported by substantial evidence.

4. These cases are automatically assigned to the United States Magistrate Judge for preparation of a Report and Recommendation to the United States District Judge.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. In the event Plaintiff intends to request a remand of this case on the basis of new medical evidence, Plaintiff shall, within **thirty (30) court days** of the filing of this Order, file a

1 motion to remand in this Court based on new evidence. The new evidence shall be attached to the
2 motion. A copy of the motion and medical evidence shall be served on:

3 United States Attorney
4 501 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 1100
Las Vegas, NV 89101

5 2. In the event Plaintiff files a motion for remand on the basis of new evidence,
6 Defendant shall have **thirty (30) court days** from the date of service of such motion to file either a
7 notice of voluntary remand of the case or points and authorities in opposition to Plaintiff's motion.
8 If Defendant files points and authorities in opposition, Plaintiff shall have **twenty (20) court days**
9 from the date of service of such points and authorities to file a reply.

10 3. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), remand for reconsideration of new evidence will not
11 be granted unless the evidence is new material and there is a showing of good cause for failure to
12 incorporate the evidence into the record at an earlier stage. Therefore, if Plaintiff seeks remand for
13 consideration of new evidence, the motion shall include a statement of reasons why the new evidence
14 was not incorporated into the record at an earlier stage.

15 4. In the event Plaintiff does not file a motion to remand on the basis of new medical
16 evidence, Plaintiff shall, within **thirty (30) court days** of this Order, file with this court a motion
17 for reversal and/or remand.

18 5. Whenever Plaintiff files a motion for reversal and/or remand, which includes issues
19 based on the administrative record, Plaintiff's motion shall include:

20 a. A specification of each and every condition or ailment, or combination
21 thereof, that allegedly renders Plaintiff disabled and is allegedly supported by evidence
22 contained in the administrative record.

23 b. A complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that supports
24 Plaintiff's claim of disability due to each condition or ailment specified in subparagraph 5a
25 above, with precise references to the applicable portions of the record. This summary shall
26 not include medical evidence unrelated to the conditions or ailments upon which Plaintiff's
27 claim or claims of disability are based. It shall be sufficient compliance with this
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1 subparagraph if Plaintiff shall stipulate that the Administrative Law Judge fairly and
2 accurately summarized the evidence contained in the administrative record.

3 c. With respect to each condition or ailment specified in subparagraph 5a above,
4 a complete but concise statement as to why the record does not contain substantial evidence
5 to support Defendant's conclusion that Plaintiff is not disabled by each such condition or
6 ailment, or combination thereof.

7 6. If Defendant has not filed a notice of voluntary remand and the issues in question
8 relate to the administrative record, Defendant, within **thirty (30) court days** after being served with
9 Plaintiff's motion for reversal and/or remand, shall file a cross-motion to affirm which will be
10 considered an opposition to Plaintiff's motion. This motion shall include:

11 a. With respect to each disabling condition or ailment specified by Plaintiff, a
12 complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that Defendant contends constitutes
13 substantial evidence to support the administrative determination that Plaintiff is not entitled
14 to the benefits in question. This summary shall not include medical evidence unrelated to
15 conditions or ailments upon which Plaintiff's claim or claims of disability are based. It shall
16 be sufficient compliance with this subparagraph if Defendant shall stipulate that the
17 Administrative Law Judge fairly and accurately summarized the evidence contained in the
18 record.

19 b. With respect to each disabling condition or ailment specified by Plaintiff, a
20 complete summary of all testimony adduced at the administrative hearing, including the
21 Administrative Law Judge's findings, if any, concerning the credibility of witnesses, which
22 Defendant contends constitutes substantial evidence to support the administrative
23 determination that Plaintiff is not entitled to the benefits in question. It shall be sufficient
24 compliance with this subparagraph if Defendant shall stipulate that the Administrative Law
25 Judge fairly and accurately summarized the testimony adduced at the administrative hearing.

26 c. A statement as to whether there are any inaccuracies in the summaries filed
27 by Plaintiff. If Defendant believes Plaintiff's summaries are inaccurate, Defendant shall set
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1 forth what additions or corrections are required (with appropriate references to the record) in
2 order to make the summaries accurate.

3 d. The lay definitions of all medical terms contained in the record necessary to
4 be understood in order to determine whether the Administrative Law Judge's decision is
5 supported by substantial evidence.

6 7. The motions filed by Plaintiff and Defendant pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of this
7 Order, respectively, shall also contain appropriate points and authorities dealing with the specific
8 legal issues involved in this case, rather than principles of law applicable to Social Security cases in
9 general.

10 8. Plaintiff shall be deemed to have agreed to the accuracy of the summaries supplied
11 by Defendant in response to subparagraphs 6a and 6b of this Order, and to all definitions of medical
12 terms supplied by Defendant with respect to subparagraph 6d of this Order, unless within twenty
13 **(20) court days** after being served with Defendant's motion to affirm, Plaintiff files and serves a
14 reply or reply brief setting forth:

15 a. In what manner the summaries are inaccurate;

16 b. What additions or corrections are required (with appropriate references to the
17 record) in order to make the summaries accurate; and/or

18 c. Any definitions of the medical terms that Plaintiff contends are more accurate
19 than the definitions supplied by Defendant.

20 9. The motions filed by both Plaintiff and Defendant shall also contain the following:

21 a. A statement as to whether the transcript of the administrative hearing can be
22 adequately comprehended in spite of the fact that such transcript may contain the words
23 "inaudible" or "unintelligible" in one or more places, and specifying each page, if any, in
24 which testimony relating to the particular issues of this case cannot be adequately
25 comprehended.

26 b. A specification of each page in the administrative record that is partially or
27 totally illegible, and a statement as to whether each such illegible page contains information
28 relevant to an understanding of any issue presented in this case.

